

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-02 FAA-00 SY-05

MCT-01 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 SCA-01 IO-13 /101 W

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R 271200Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9896

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2800

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TD, CU, GY, BB, VE, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OCTOBER 24-26 OF CUBANA

CRASH INVESTIGATION

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 2782

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ON OCTOBER 24 TO 26, 1976

INDICATE THAT THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CABINET WILL
MEET THIS WEEK TO DECIDE ON THE FATE OF THE TWO
VENEZUELANS DETAINED HERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
CUBANA CRASH, AND AGAINST WHOM NO CHARGES HAVE
OFFICIALLY BEEN MADE. (CABINET NORMALLY MEETS ON
THURSDAY.)

2. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE MINISTERIAL SUMMIT

MEETING HELD IN PORT OF SPAIN 20-21 OCTOBER REPORTEDLY
SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO BE TRIED BY AN INTERNATIONAL
COURT IN EITHER BARBADOS OR CUBA. CUBA, HOWEVER,
WOULD FACE A PROBLEM IF THE TRIAL WERE TO BE HELD THERE
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BECAUSE CUBA HAS NO EXTRADITION TREATY WITH TRINIDAD

AND TOBAGO AND DID NOT SIGN THE MONTREAL CONVENTION.

3. THE NEWSPAPERS CARRIED BARBADOS PRIME MINISTER TOM ADAMS' SPEECH OF OCTOBER 22. ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT HERE, ADAMS INDICATED BARBADOS WOULD SUPPORT ANY VALID CLAIM BY CUBA TO TRY THE TWO MEN.

4. BOTH SUNDAY DAILIES CARRIED REPORTS FROM HAVANA ON FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL ROA'S COMMENTS THERE AND HIS ACCUSATIONS THAT "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" HAD TRIED TO "SPREAD A SMOKE SCREEN AROUND THE CRIMINAL SABOTAGE... TO SECURE IMPUNITY FOR ITS AGENTS." ROA REPORTEDLY INDICATED CUBA WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THE MEN BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL COURT IN BARBADOS. ROA IS QUOTED AS SAYING "CUBA KNOWS, AS ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA DO, THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TOOK A DIRECT PART IN ORGANIZING AND CARRYING OUT THE ACTS."

5. THE OCTOBER 26 ISSUE OF THE "EXPRESS" CARRIED AN ARTICLE HEADLINED "CASTRO: BOMB SUSPECT ON THE CIA PAYROLL--DETAINEE HAD CONTACT WITH AGENT IN CARACAS." FIDEL CASTRO CLAIMS THAT HERMAN RICARDO LUSANO WAS ON THE CIA PAYROLL WHEN THE CUBANA PLANE WAS BLOWN UP AND NAMED THE VENEZUELAN'S CONTACT IN CARACAS AS FELIX MARTINEZ SUAREZ.

FAY

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